



February 7, 2007

Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair
California State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: Mojave Water Agency's comments for the **2/20/07 BOARD MEETING**
Agenda Item #6; Consideration of approval of additional **Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) implementation grants**

Dear Chair Doduc:

It has been brought to my attention that a recommendation has been made by staff from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) that funding be provided to all 16 applicants in the Proposition 50 Step 2 process, rather than just the seven which were originally chosen. I am pleased with this turn of events, as one of my constituent agencies, the Mojave Water Agency (MWA), had originally been informed that its application would not be funded.

In light of the recommendation provided at the January 23 and 31, 2007 Grant Program Scoping meetings, I would like to lend my strong support and endorsement of the application submitted by MWA in Southern California. I urge you and your colleagues on the Board to concur with your staff's and DWR's recommendation.

MWA's application has withstood intense public scrutiny by stakeholders in the region, along with a meticulous evaluation by DWR, and the stakeholders have galvanized their unwavering support. The projects in MWA's Plan will address water supply reliability, regional conservation, groundwater recharge management, and habitat protection in the High Desert region of San Bernardino County for years to come.

These projects were chosen because they are vital to help protect and enhance the economic viability and quality of life in one of the fastest growing regions in the State of California. They are essential elements of a project portfolio that will enable MWA to provide a balanced long-term supply of water, expand the economy, protect the environment, and assure Californians a high quality of life -- all of which are objectives of the California Water Plan.

I am sure that you recognize the key role that local entities play, but local funding alone will not be nearly enough for them to achieve their goals. State and federal investment in local water management projects and programs must be made to complement and support progress at the local and regional level and ensure that water is available to meet our changing needs.

I urge you to concur with staff's recommendation to fund all 16 applicants and evaluate the totality of the benefits of all the applicants. Our region is counting on your vision and foresight.

Sincerely,

Paul Cook
Assemblyman, 65th District